

REMARKS

Applicant has carefully reviewed the Office Action mailed October 22, 2003. By this Amendment, claim 7 is canceled and claims 1 and 8-17 are amended. Claims 1-6 and 8-17 are pending in this application. It is noted that Applicant has amended and cancelled the above-identified claims solely to advance prosecution of the instant application and to obtain allowance on allowable claims at the earliest possible date. Accordingly, no admission may be inferred from the amendments of claims herein. Applicant expressly reserves the right to pursue the originally filed claims in the future.

Claim 1 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Great Britain Patent 1426906. Applicant's invention as recited in amended claim 1 comprises the step of applying a deposit forming material to the periphery of a first pane while one face of the first pane is shielded by a second pane and another face of the pane is shielded by a mask. There is no need to apply sacrificial masking material to the second face of the first pane because it is shielded by the second pane. The mask covering the second face of the first pane can be removed (e.g., for bonding the first pane to a sash).

Because British Patent 1426906 does not disclose the step of the step of applying a deposit forming material to the periphery of a first pane while one face of the first pane is shielded by a second pane and another face of the pane is shielded by a mask, this reference does not anticipate Applicant's invention as recited in claim 1. For this reason, Applicant respectfully submits that amended independent claim 1 is now in condition for allowance. Claims 2-3 and 5-6 depend from claim 1 and recite additional limitations; Applicant respectfully submits that these dependent claims are also in condition for allowance.

Claim 14 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Great Britain Patent 1426906 in view of U.S. Patent 5468538 to Nameche. Applicant's invention as recited in claim 14 is a method comprising the step of providing an insulating glass unit, applying a first mask to a first pane of the insulating glass unit and applying a first deposit to the periphery of the first pane. A first portion of the first mask is removed to expose a portion of the first face of the first pane and a sash is bonded to the exposed portion of the first face of the first pane. A second portion of the first mask remains disposed over a masked portion of the first face of the first pane.

Unlike Applicant's claimed invention, British patent 1426906 and Nameche do not disclose the step of removing a portion of a mask to expose a portion of a pane or the step of bonding a sash to the exposed portion of the pane. These steps allow a sash to be bonded directly to the pane material (e.g., glass) while a second portion of the mask protects a covered portion of the pane. In light of the above discussion, Applicant respectfully submits that amended claim 14 is now in condition for allowance. Claims 8-13 and 15-17 depend from claim 14 and recite additional limitations; Applicant respectfully submits that these claims are also in condition for allowance.

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In view of the foregoing, it is submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable consideration and prompt allowance of the application are respectfully requested. The Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned if the Examiner believes it would be useful to advance prosecution.

Respectfully submitted,



Allen W. Groenke
Registration No. 42,608

Customer No. 22859
Fredrikson & Byron, P.A.
4000 Pillsbury Center
200 South Sixth Street
Minneapolis, MN 55402-1425 USA
Telephone: (612) 492-7000
Facsimile: (612) 492-7077

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